

Claims

1. Apparatus for cleaning a surface, comprising:
a wheeled chassis;
5 an engine and a high pressure pump mounted to the chassis, the pump having an inlet and a high pressure outlet;
a rotary valve mounted to the chassis and fluidly connected to the high pressure outlet and having at least two wands rotationally connected to the rotary valve; and
10 a nozzle mounted to each wand.

2. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the rotary valve is capable of causing the nozzles to rotate in a circular pattern so that high pressure water is
15 sprayed from the nozzles in a path.

3. Apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the path is circular.

- 20 4. Apparatus according to claim 3 including a pair of diffuser plates mounted to the chassis such that the diffuser plates occlude at least a portion of the path.

5. Apparatus according to claim 1 including a first valve between the high pressure outlet and the rotary valve, said first valve movable from a neutral position in which water flowing therethrough is returned to the high pressure pump, and a second position in which water flowing therethrough is directed to the rotary valve.

6. Apparatus according to claim 5 including a second valve fluidly connected to the first valve and a high pressure outlet.

7. Apparatus according to claim 6 wherein when the first valve is in the second position and the second valve is in a second position, water is directed through the high pressure outlet of the second valve.

8. Apparatus according to claim 5 including a pressure regulating valve between the high pressure outlet and the first valve.

9. High pressure washing apparatus, comprising:
a wheeled chassis;

an engine and a high pressure pump mounted to the chassis, the pump having an inlet and a high pressure outlet;

a rotary valve mounted to the chassis and fluidly connected to the high pressure outlet;

5 high pressure water distribution means connected to the rotary valve for directing water sprayed from a pair of nozzles in a 360° rotary spray pattern toward a surface; and

diffuser plate means for interrupting the rotary spray pattern in at least part of the 360° rotary spray pattern.

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10. The high pressure washing apparatus according to claim 9 wherein the high pressure water distribution means further comprises a pair of opposed wands and a nozzle connected to each of the wands.

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11. The high pressure washing apparatus according to claim 9 wherein the diffuser plate means comprises a pair of diffuser plates mounted to the chassis in a position such that the plates lie between the nozzles and the surface.

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12. The high pressure washing apparatus according to claim 11 in which each diffuser plate interrupts the rotary spray pattern through an arc of at least about 45°.

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13. The high pressure washing apparatus according to claim 12 in which the chassis is configured for movement along a linear path and wherein each diffuser plate interrupts the rotary spray pattern at opposite lateral sides of the rotary spray pattern.

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14. The high pressure washing apparatus according to claim 9 including valve means for selectively directing high pressure water to the high pressure distribution means of to the pump.

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15. The high pressure washing apparatus according to claim 14 including high pressure regulating means for adjusting the pressure of water in the high pressure water distribution means.

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16. A method of washing a surface, comprising the steps of:

a) mounting to a wheeled chassis an engine, a pump having a low pressure inlet and a high pressure outlet, and a pair of rotating wands having nozzles mounted in spaced apart positions thereon; and

5 b) supplying water to the low pressure inlet, pressurizing the water and causing high pressure water to spray from the nozzles in a 360° spray path toward the surface.

10 17. The method according to claim 16 including the step of blocking at least a portion of the 360° spray path so that high pressure water is blocked from directly hitting the surface in the blocked portion.

15 18. The method according to claim 16 including blocking at least a portion of the 360° path at opposed sides of the path.

19. The method according to claim 18 including blocking the path through an arc of at least about 45° on opposite sides of the path.

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20. The method according to claim 19 including blocking the path through an arc of between about 60° and 75° on opposite sides of the path.